

CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS



VETERANS UPDATE



"A stronger America begins at home and we must keep our promises to the heroes who have kept our country free, safe, and strong."
— Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis

Dear Friend:

Every day the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces sacrifice their lives to defend our freedom. They serve our nation with great honor and deserve to receive all the care and services they need upon their return home. As your representative in Congress, I am fighting to ensure that our veterans are treated with respect and dignity.

Thousands of U.S. military personnel continue to serve our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan. As the new year approaches, we remember them and all of our troops and hope for their safe return home to their families. They are the veterans of tomorrow and their service to our nation will not be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Hilda L. Solis

Hilda L. Solis

P.S. As always, please do not hesitate to contact my El Monte or East Los Angeles offices if I can be of assistance to you. If you would like to receive my e-newsletter, visit my website at www.house.gov/solis.



Congresswoman Solis meets with veterans at the AM VETS Post 113's Memorial Day event to discuss veterans' issues.

CONGRESSWOMAN SOLIS – STANDI

PROVIDING SERVICES TO VETERANS

SOLIS HOSTS VETERANS CARE DAY

On July 30, 2005, Congresswoman Solis hosted her Second Annual Veterans Care Day event in Irwindale. More than 300 retired and active duty military personnel and their families attended the event and received valuable information about



Congresswoman Solis presents military medals to Edward J. Rodgers (U.S. Navy) of West Covina during the annual Veterans Care Day event.

federal, state, and local resources available to them, including health, education, employment, and housing benefits.

HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE VA? TRYING TO OBTAIN YOUR MILITARY MEDALS?

Congresswoman Solis' office can help you resolve concerns you may be having with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Personnel Records Center, the Social Security Administration, or other federal agencies. Her office also can assist with obtaining military medals and securing U.S. flags that can be flown over the U.S. Capitol. Contact Congresswoman Solis' El Monte District Office at (626) 448-1271 or visit online at www.house.gov/solis for more information.

FIGHTING IN CONGRESS FOR VETERANS

THE G.I. BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Congresswoman Solis is a proud supporter of H.R. 2131, the G.I. Bill of Rights for the 21st Century. This comprehensive legislation would provide long overdue benefits to current members of the military and the National Guard and the Reserves, as well as veterans and military retirees who have already served. H.R. 2131 would provide better education, health care, and job training benefits for those who have answered our nation's call to duty.



VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Those individuals who have answered the call to duty should be able to rely on the promises of the nation for which they fought. And yet, more than 50,000 veterans are waiting in line for at least six months for a medical appointment. That is why Congresswoman Solis is fighting against plans to cut veterans' health care by as much as \$600 million.



Congresswoman Solis participates in a Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Ceremony at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos.

For more information, visit online at www.house.gov/solis.

NG UP FOR CALIFORNIA'S VETERANS

VETERANS BILINGUAL COUNSELING BILL

The mental health of service members and their families is one of Congresswoman Solis' top concerns in Congress. Seventeen percent of the Army's soldiers who have served in Iraq have shown signs of major depression and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Congresswoman Solis is working on legislation to provide access to bilingual counseling for limited English proficient military personnel and families who are suffering from PTSD or bereavement.

HONORING LOCAL HEROES

HOUSE PASSES SOLIS BILL TO NAME COVINA POST OFFICE IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN KEIL

Legislation (H.R. 4053) introduced by Congresswoman Solis to name a post office in Covina in honor of Captain Lillian K. Keil, the most decorated woman veteran in U.S. military history, was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on November 8, 2005.

Captain Keil, known as an "Airborne Florence Nightingale," was a flight nurse for the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and the Korean War. She flew on 425 combat air evacuation missions in World War II and the Korean War.

To be enacted into law, H.R. 4053 must be passed by the Senate and signed by the President.

*A local hero:
Captain
Lillian K. Keil.
(1917-2005)*



Congresswoman Solis leads a Congressional procession at Arlington National Cemetery to honor veterans.

WE REMEMBER OUR FALLEN LOCAL HEROES

Our community has suffered the loss of nine brave service-men during the war in Iraq. These men, our fallen soldiers, are our local heroes.

- ★ First Class Jose Casanova, Jr., U.S. Army
- ★ Lance Corporal Manuel A. Cenicerros, USMC
- ★ Lance Corporal Francisco A. Martinez Flores, USMC
- ★ Lance Corporal Benjamin M. Gonzalez, USMC
- ★ Corporal Jorge A. Gonzalez, USMC
- ★ Sergeant Atanacio Haromarin, U.S. Army
- ★ Specialist Leroy Harris-Kelly III, U.S. Army
- ★ Corporal Stephen P. Johnson, USMC
- ★ Corporal Rudy Salas, USMC

**"Our armed forces are protecting us abroad...the least we can do is protect them here at home."
- Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis**

VETERAN RESOURCES

BENEFITS INFORMATION

Health Benefits	877-222-8387
Education Benefits	888-442-4551
VA Life Insurance	800-669-8477
CHAMPVA	800-733-8387
Gulf War Veterans	800-749-8387

LOCAL FACILITIES

U.S. Department of Veterans Administration

Los Angeles Regional Office

Federal Building
11000 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90024
800-827-1000

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

West Los Angeles

11301 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90073
310-478-3711

VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System

East Los Angeles

5426 East Olympic Blvd.
Commerce, CA 90040
323-725-7557



VETERANS: WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY

Created by Congress, the Veterans History Project is collecting personal histories and testimonials from thousands of veterans around the country.

Through this collection future generations will be able to remember those who served in war and may learn first hand of the heroics, horrors and triumphs of war. To date, more than 35,000 individuals have submitted their stories.

Congresswoman Solis encourages veterans in the 32nd Congressional District to contribute their stories to the Project. Call (888) 371-5848 or visit www.loc.gov/vets for more information.



***For assistance with federal agencies, please contact Congresswoman Solis' District Offices
or visit www.house.gov/solis.***

My Offices Are Here To Help

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